

**Remarks**

This Preliminary Amendment cancels, without prejudice, original claims 1 to 15 in the underlying PCT Application No. PCT/DE00/01295, and adds new claims 16 to 30. The new claims conform the claims to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules and do not add new matter to the application.

The above amendments to the specification and abstract are to conform the specification and abstract to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules or to correct informalities, and do not introduce new matter into the application.

The underlying PCT Application No. PCT/DE00/01295 includes an International Search Report, dated September 22, 2000. The Search Report includes a list of documents that were uncovered in the underlying PCT Application. A copy of the Search Report accompanies this Preliminary Amendment.

Applicants assert that the subject matter of the present application is new, non obvious, and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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